CHATEAU MONTELENA
ESTABLISHED 1882

2013 Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Notes from the Winemaker, Matt Crafton, February 2016

INTRODUCTION

We take great pride in the stewardship of this very special Estate vineyard, under our care for the last 45 years. Even a casual visit to Burgundy or Bordeaux readily reveals family plots that have existed and thrived for centuries. This relationship between the farmer and his field is a true partnership, and underscores man's role as an integral part of terroir. In discussing topography, climate, and geology—what most consider to be the essence of the site—it's easy to forget the careful hands that plant the vines, till the soil, and prune the canes. For the farmer, it takes persistent dedication, purpose, and perspective to be successful. But more importantly, it's the understanding that each vintage isn't a sprint, but an individual leg of a multi-decade marathon. Only under the careful guidance of an experienced, devoted team can the fullest potential of any vineyard be achieved. At Chateau Montelena, the proof of that success is in the tenure of our team, the nature of our site, and the utmost quality of our fruit.

VINTAGE WEATHER

The 2013 vintage was yet another blockbuster for Napa Valley. Early winter rains and dry spring weather combined to induce just enough early stress in our vines to stimulate the development of rich texture and body, characteristic of our Estate Cabernet. The long, warm summer that followed, coupled with good yields, brought each block into balance quite quickly requiring little intervention and encouraging uniform ripening. The result is an age-worthy wine that showcases the classic balance of Old World structure and New World ripeness.

NOSE

In the glass, the wine displays classic notes of raspberry jam, mocha, and a subtle hint of baking spices. After a few minutes, the bouquet opens to reveal lush aromas of toasty cedar, crème de cassis, and fresh blackberry.

PALATE

A complex interplay of sweet French oak, subtle earth, and a chewy minerality that devoted Montelena fans will instantly recognize. The mid palate is clean and fresh with rhubarb pie, strawberry candy, and just a touch of smoky espresso that become incredibly pronounced with additional time in the glass.

FINISH

The transition to the finish is seamless, and will only improve with age. Here the refreshing acidity, rounded tannin, and intense fruit vie for the spotlight. Upon release, the soft tannins seem to win out as the dense texture lingers, inviting another sip from the glass.

Technical Information

HARVEST DATES
September 10 to October 10

ALCOHOL
14.1%

BLEND
97% Cabernet Sauvignon,
1.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot

BARREL AGING
24 months, 100% French, 30% new

RELEASE DATE
February 2016

WINEMAKER
Matt Crafton

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